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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 24 | Min 20 | Humidity 87% Cloudy Sensex 82,186 | Nifty 25,060 | Gold 1,00,275 | Silver 1,15,702 | Dollar 86.36 | Euro 101.28 | GBP 116.64

## SEWER IMPACT

OFC chambers on Brigade Road perform dual role as they also function as gutters, thanks to smart work done by Bengaluru Smart City Ltd around 4 years ago

PAGE 4

## PAPER CUT

Who would have thought that modest tailoring shop in Yelahanka was a front for a scheme involving fake identity documentation and illegal immigration?

PAGE 5

**We spoke to experts to understand if enthusiastic adoption of solar panels on lakes is good idea — most say if rooftops and barren land not available, first try it out on dead lakes**

# HOPE AFLOAT

## Current studies say there may be no impact on water body if only 10% of its surface area is covered by panels

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Based on a feasibility report prepared by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), the state government is taking a step forward with its plan to install solar panels on 40 lakes across Karnataka.

Out of these, four lakes – Bagalur, Singanayakanahalli, Jigani Doddakere, and Muttanallur Amanikere – are in Bengaluru.

This recent development has yet again sparked concerns about the impact of Floating photovoltaic (FPV) panels on the lake ecology and ecosystem.

Limnologists say FPVs are put to use in regions with a shortage of barren landmasses. Karnataka had ample land and rooftop

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> **“Lakes are biodiversity hotspots and support an amazing amount of bird diversity. They are century-old elements, which have already suffered a great deal due to the current model of lake development and rejuvenation, which are not biodiversity-friendly**
>
> —Dr S Subramanya, ornithologist

# Joint operation

As marijuana remains most common illegal drug in city, police start campaign involving multiple depts to keep narcotics out

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Ganja or marijuana continues to be the most commonly traded illegal drug within the city limits, despite ongoing efforts to curb its supply and distribution. Bengaluru police have intensified crackdown on drug networks, the Police Commissioner announced on Tuesday, speaking about a coordinated district-level campaign involving multiple departments and agencies to strengthen the fight against narcotics.

According to data from the city police, by July 15, officers had seized 902.8 kg of ganja during various operations across the city. A total of 186 cases were filed against peddlers, leading to the arrest of 256 individuals.

During the press meet, commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh explained that the crackdown is part of an intensified campaign to dismantle drug networks operating in the city. A district-level meeting led by Bengaluru City Police and involving the Narcotics Control Bureau, Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), BBMP, and departments including Education, Revenue, Health, Social Welfare, Commercial Tax, Agriculture, and Forest has been convened.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## THINGS TO DO

### 01 Classical with a twist

Windmills is presenting a weekend of live music featuring Mystik Vibes, a dynamic trio known for their cross-cultural musical explorations, blending classical Indian music traditions with contemporary global influences, creating a vibrant, evolving soundscape that transcends genres. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: July 25 and 26, 9.30 pm**

### 02 Evocative art

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting 'Shape of a Thought: Letters from Ram Kumar', an exhibition navigating the artist's nuanced engagement with abstraction by inviting the viewer not to decipher, but to dwell on a constellation of thoughts, feelings, and memories. **Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar; When: July 26 onwards**

### 03 Handicraft haven

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is presenting 'Bengaluru Utsava', featuring a curated exhibition and sale of exquisite art, handicrafts, handloom products, and lifestyle items from across India. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until July 27**

### 04 Artistic exploration

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) is organising an online art appreciation session, taking participants on a vibrant exploration of Jamini Roy's artistic legacy. **Where: Live-streamed across all NGMA's official social media platforms; When: July 26, 5 pm**

### 05 Paw parade

Love, Beauty and Planet is organising a first-of-its-kind 'Pet Rave' with four hours of fur-friendly fun, from glam squads for pets and parents to a scent bar even pups will love, along with caricature 'pawtraits', a playful pet zone, and cruelty-free haircare indulgence—all wrapped up in the brand's signature vegan, planet-loving vibe. **Where: Mannheim Craft Brewery, Whitefield; When: July 27, 3 pm to 7 pm**

# Indian Artisan's Haat brings exquisite craft to Bengaluru

**Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror present 10-day fair providing platform to artisans from various regions to showcase their craft, offering visitors unique finds**

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**Mohammed Ahmed Khan (above) and Nagaraj Hundekar (below), are co-founders of And Events, the company that will be organising the event in collaboration with VK and BM**

Indian Artisans' Haat, a grand national-level handicrafts fair celebrating India's vibrant artisanal heritage, is scheduled to be held from August 1 to August 10 at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road, Bengaluru. Organised in collaboration with Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, the event promises an extraordinary showcase of handcrafted artistry and traditional textiles from across the country.

Approximately 80 to 100 stalls will be set up, bringing together skilled artisans from multiple states. The event also offers artisans from Karnataka an opportunity to participate, providing them a platform to present their regional crafts alongside works from across India.

While the city has witnessed several craft fairs, Indian Artisans' Haat marks a significant leap in scale and diversity. The fair aims to bring authentic handmade products from every state under one roof, turning MG Road into a corridor of cultural exchange. Organisers anticipate high footfall, especially with the Varamahalakshmi Festival falling during the fair's timeline.

Amongst the wide array of crafts on display are Thanjavur paintings, Ikkat sarees from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Pattachitra artworks from Odisha, Bhagalpur sarees from Bihar, Phulkari textiles from Punjab, Pochampally sarees and tops from Telangana, and Dhaka silk sarees from Bangladesh. Ilkal sarees from Karnataka and Lucknow's Chikankari embroidery will also be featured.

**Indian Artisan's Haat is scheduled to be held from August 1 to August 10 at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre, MG Road, showcasing unparalleled craft diversity and cultural energy**

Handloom lovers can look forward to Kantha sarees from West Bengal, Khadi fabrics, Kasavu sarees from Kerala, and stunning Pashmina shawls from Jammu & Kashmir. Home décor enthusiasts will be treated to Jaipur bedsheets, Mirzapur rugs, and marble artifacts from Agra. Artisans from Hyderabad will be bringing glass jewellery, leather and jute bags, and pearls, while artisans from Punjab and Maharashtra will be showcasing designer footwear and Kolhapuri chappals, respectively. The iconic Channapatna wooden toys from Karnataka and bamboo creations from Nagaland will also be on display at the fair. Each stall reflects the soul of its region, all set to captivate visitors. Complementing the craft bazaar is a daily line-up of cultural performances that will run throughout the 10-day event. Audiences can enjoy a diverse mix of music and dance, including Carnatic and Hindustani recitals, violin and flute performances, shehnai and tabla concerts, puppet shows, and folk dances, curated to immerse visitors in India's rich performing arts traditions.

The Indian Artisans' Haat isn't just a marketplace—it's a tribute to the spirit of craftsmanship, sustainability, and cultural pride.

Whether you're a collector of handwoven sarees, a lover of tribal artistry, or someone seeking festive décor with a story, the fair promises something memorable for everyone.

Visitors are encouraged to mark their calendars and head to MG Road for a firsthand experience of India's unparalleled craft diversity and cultural energy—all brought together at the Indian Artisans' Haat.

# HC grants relief to para swimmer

The Karnataka High Court has directed the State to release over Rs 1 lakh to a para swimmer who was denied cash awards, stating that all sports and sportspersons deserve equal treatment and recognition.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued the order on July 21 in favour of para athletics swimmer Vishwas KS, who lost both arms at a young age. The petitioner had sought court intervention after his requests for cash incentives from the State remained unaddressed. The court ordered the state government to pay Rs 1,26,000, which was due under a 2013 government order, for his representation of India in prestigious competitions and medal achievements. Additionally, the High Court levied a Rs 2 lakh cost on officials of the State's Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, holding them accountable for denying the petitioner his rightful dues.

The High Court criticised the department officials, stating that the petitioner was left to fend for himself for close to a decade with only a partial payment made, that too after the notice was issued in the subject petition. The court said that the instance was a sad reflection on the functioning of the State's machinery. The court determined that officers should bear personal responsibility for causing a disabled person to endure litigation.

The judgement specified that the costs should be paid by the officers who misinterpreted government orders to deny the petitioner's benefits, not from state funds. The court emphasised that delayed justice, especially for individuals who overcome significant challenges like the petitioner, constitutes both denied justice and diminished dignity.

**— BMB**

# Activists demand shelters for stray dogs

Efforts to build shelters for stray dogs in Bengaluru—like in developed countries—are stuck due to legal roadblocks. Sources said that Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)'s plan to feed chicken biryani to stray dogs has sparked debate, prompting calls from citizens and animal lovers to provide safe shelters instead. With over one lakh stray dog bites reported in the city over the past decade, activists argue that just like the US, Switzerland, or Singapore, India must create secure shelters with microchipping, anti-rabies vaccines, and birth control programmes. They emphasise that shelter homes will ensure public safety and better animal care, shielding dogs from harsh weather and reducing rabies risks.

Animal welfare activists are pressing the government to amend laws like the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and the Animal Birth Control Rules, to allow sheltering of stray dogs without conflicting with Supreme Court directives that prohibit relocation. In many countries, adoption systems and online shelters are already in place. In contrast, India's laws focus on street care and not centralised sheltering.

**— BMB**

# Traders to rally against GST crackdown

Outrage over Goods and Services Tax (GST) notices to small traders has snowballed into a full-blown protest across Karnataka. Traders running tea stalls, milk booths, fruit, flower, and vegetable shops have announced a two-day boycott of milk and dairy products on July 23 and 24, calling it a symbolic protest against the tax crackdown. The trigger includes lakhsworth tax notices issued by the state's Commercial Tax Department, allegedly targeting low-income, street-based businesses. A massive protest rally is scheduled for July 25 at Freedom Park, demanding immediate withdrawal of notices.

Traders accuse the government of targeting the poor to offset financial strain caused by its guarantee schemes. Critics argue that GST on essentials like milk, curd, tea, fruits, and vegetables is unjust and that the digital footprint of UPI payments is now being used to squeeze small vendors.

### Department unfazed by protests

Despite warnings from traders about possible protests, the Commercial Tax Department has announced that notices are being issued in phases to businesses that have exceeded GST limits. Joint Commissioner Meera Pandit, speaking at a 'Know Your GST' session in Koramangala, confirmed that over 850 traders have already received notices in the first phase, particularly those handling transactions worth crores of rupees. The department made it clear that more traders can expect similar notices in the coming days.

**— BMB**

# BBMP to reinstate fines for poor sanitation

As monsoon sets in, cases of seasonal and vector-borne diseases like dengue and chikungunya are on the rise in Bengaluru, triggering public concern. The city has already reported 1,582 dengue cases within Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits this year. In response to the surge, the BBMP has decided to reintroduce penalties for lack of cleanliness in homes and commercial establishments. BBMP officials emphasised that dengue-spreading mosquitoes breed in stagnant water and unhygienic surroundings. The civic body has instructed residents to keep areas around homes clean and free of stagnant water. Strict action will be taken against property owners failing to maintain hygiene. Fines of Rs 800 will be levied on residential properties, while commercial premises will face penalties of Rs 2,000. Although similar fines were imposed last year, the BBMP has now renewed its sanitation drive as dengue cases rise once again.

**— BMB**

# Heist setup backfires, police bust crypto gang

An investigation into a ₹2 crore case, which initially seemed like any other, eventually led back to the complainant uncovering the mastermind behind the scheme.

Bengaluru police have arrested 15 individuals in connection with a large-scale USDT (United States Dollar Tether) digital currency fraud, recovering ₹1.11 crore in cash along with vehicles, weapons, and mobile phones worth a total of ₹1.4 crore.

Based on a complaint filed by Sriharsha Venkatesh Murthy, 33, a city-based businessman, in the last week of June, investigations revealed that Sriharsha had offered to convert ₹2 crore in cash, belonging to two businessmen, Bharath Singh from Bengaluru and Abhishek from Mangaluru, into USDT cryptocurrency, promising to return the amount via RTGS premium facility with maximum benefits.

The case originated when the owner of a shop in MS Palya Circle, Vidyaranyapura, lodged a complaint on June 25, alleging the robbery of ₹2 crore.

As per the arrangement, the accused and the two businessmen gathered at a shop owned by one of the accused to count the cash when an armed gang stormed in, assaulted them, and fled with the money. To stage the incident as a robbery, Sriharsha, along with Bharath Singh, Abhishek, and three of their associates, was locked inside the shop.

However, during their investigation, police examined CCTV footage and call records before uncovering a gang that included the complainant himself.

In this case, the accused had divided the group into two teams as per their plan. One team was tasked with legalising the cash, while the other carried out the staged dacoity. Police noticed inconsistencies in the information provided. Upon verification of the facts, they arrested Sriharsha along with 14 other individuals for orchestrating the fraud.

During the investigation, police took two suspects into custody near Jamia Masjid, Hegde Nagar, on June 26. Their interrogation revealed a network of 17 members involved in the scheme.

The other accused have been identified as Rakshith M Chandrashekhar, Benjamin Harsha, Syed Akhib, Mohammed Suhail, Salman Khan, Muheeb S, Mohsin Khan, another Salman Khan (sharing the same name), Syed Amjab, Syed Afreed, Syed Wasim, and Mohammed Ateeq.

Sandeep, Sheikh Sadu, Rakesh, and Mohammed Sabeer remain at large, and efforts are underway to locate and apprehend them. City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh stated that thirteen of the accused are in judicial custody, while two remain in police custody. He added that the group consists of repeat offenders with a history of similar crimes, and this is the first case of its kind reported in Bengaluru. Police further mentioned that the investigation is ongoing. **BMB**

# Police nab burglar, recover jewellery

Hulimavu Police have arrested a man involved in multiple house thefts and recovered 136 grams of gold bars and 1.653 kg of silver items worth 15.7 lakh. The case began when a resident of Akshaya Nagar filed a complaint on June 25, 2024, reporting the theft of 33 grams of gold ornaments and 40 silver items from his home while he was away in Sringeri between June 22 and 24. There were no signs of forced entry.

Acting on leads, police detained a suspect near Basavanapura bus stand on June 19, with 40 grams of stolen silver. During interrogation, the accused identified as Dhangopal confessed to the Akshaya Nagar theft and revealed his involvement in another house burglary in Vijayanagar, Mysuru, along with an accomplice. He disclosed that portions of the stolen jewellery had been given to associates in Tamil Nadu and JP Nagar.

Subsequent raids between June 24 and 30 led to the recovery of the stolen gold and silver. The accused was produced before court on June 20 and remanded in police custody for 11 days. He was later sent to judicial custody. **BMB**

# Four women arrested for gold chain theft

Four women involved in multiple gold chain thefts during Sri Jagannathaswamy Rathotsava have been arrested by Banaswadi police, recovering 140 grams of gold ornaments valued at ₹14 lakh.

The case was registered after a devotee attending the Sri Jagannathaswamy Rathotsava in Banaswadi on June 29 reported that a 48-gram gold mangalsutra was snatched from her neck. Acting on the complaint, police launched a detailed investigation, gathering crucial intelligence from informants.

On July 11, the four accused identified as Yashodha, Gayathri, Asha and Priya were apprehended near Huskur Gate in the Electronic City area. During interrogation, they confessed to the theft and revealed the location of the stolen jewellery. A follow-up search at the residence of one of the accused in Yadavanahalli on July 17 led to the recovery of 140 grams of stolen gold ornaments.

Further questioning linked the accused to three separate theft cases registered at Banaswadi Police Station.

They were produced before court on July 12 and remanded in police custody for 10 days. Upon completion of interrogation, the accused were again produced in court on July 17 and remanded in judicial custody. **BMB**

# Too brash about no cash

A self-proclaimed digital-only passenger in Bengaluru has sparked outrage online after refusing to pay an auto driver in cash, simply because the latter didn't accept UPI. The incident, which the passenger proudly documented on social media platform X, has drawn sharp criticism.

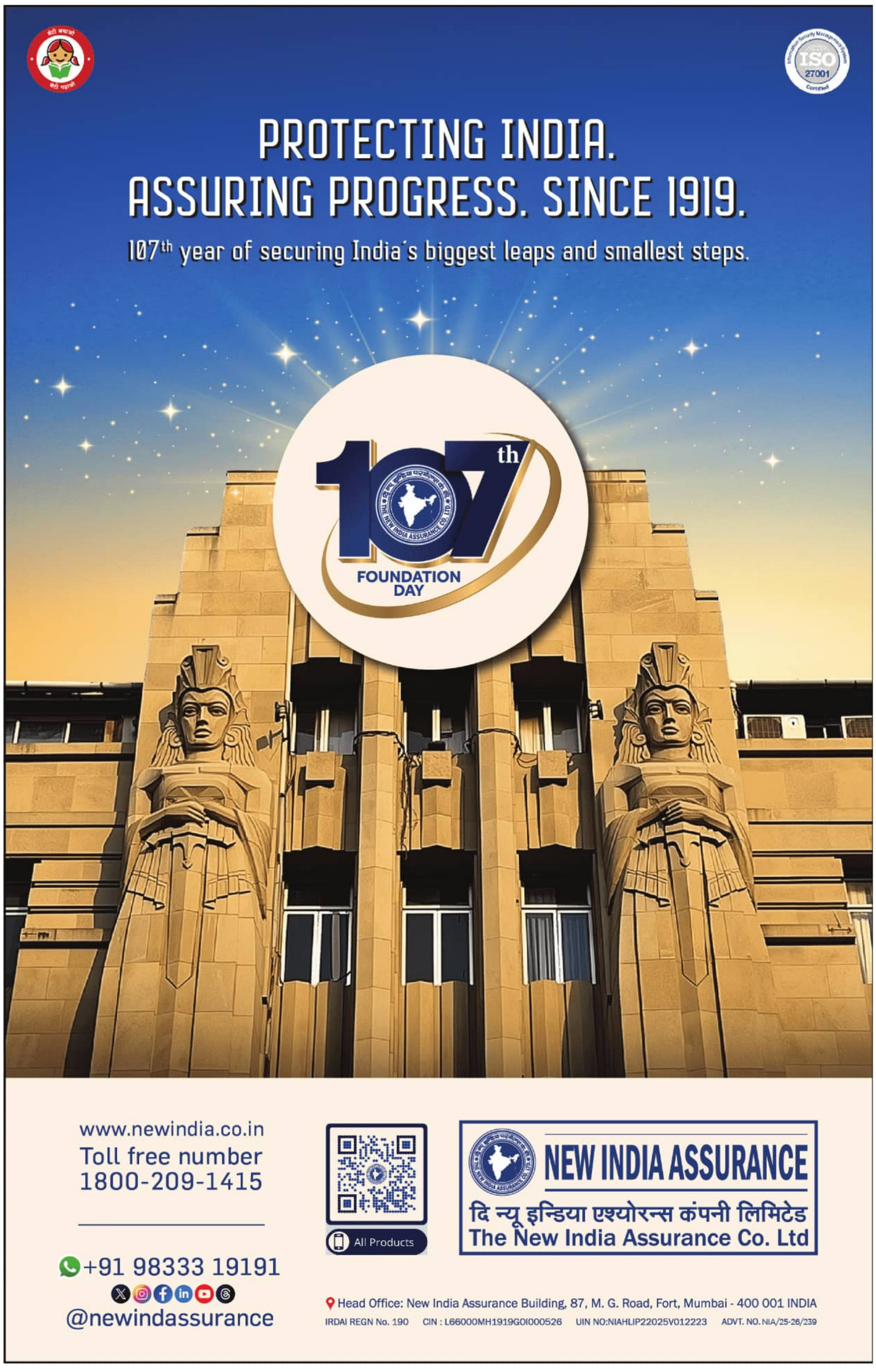
The incident unfolded after the man completed a ride via a ride-hailing app. The driver allegedly marked the trip as paid, assuming payment would be settled in cash. However, the passenger refused, saying, "Either UPI or I will not pay."

He even began recording the auto driver during their argument and later boasted online about walking away without paying. "He threatened a bit. I started recording. He called someone and I refused to talk," the passenger wrote in the now-viral post, dated July 21, which has received over 9.3 lakh views.

The post did not sit well with netizens. Many slammed the passenger's behaviour, calling it legally and morally wrong. "You're legally required to pay for a service you've used.

The driver is not legally required to offer UPI," one user commented. Another added, "You're not a hero here, you're stealing someone's labour."

Several users pointed out that it's basic courtesy to check for digital payment options before boarding. **BMB**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# Smart city's OFC chamber now a filthy sewer drain

## Shop owners blame poor supervision and inaction by BWSSB and Smart City engineers for sewage entering fibre cable chambers on redeveloped Brigade Road

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Above: Sewage overflowing onto Brigade Road; Above Right: Sewage overflowing from the OFC chamber

The purpose of an Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) chamber is to safeguard fibre splices, connections, and related equipment. However, one such chamber on Brigade Road is now serving double duty—as both an OFC chamber and a sewer chamber. This situation stems from the redevelopment of Brigade Road by Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) over four years ago. Brigade Road was among nine roads upgraded at a cost of ₹32.3 crore.

The shop owners on Brigade Road and thousands of people who come for shopping have expressed concern over the frequent nuisance of dirty water overflowing either from sewer chambers or OFC chambers. Bangalore Mirror published a story – Sewage spot is raising a stink on Brigade Road – on June 19, 2025, narrating how the BWSSB authorities failed to take action despite the shop owners writing letters to the former. Finally, the problem was fixed recently.

Now, sewage is found overflowing from an OFC chamber thus causing a lot of inconvenience to the motorists, pedestrians, and shop owners. Some of the pedestrians want the BBMP authorities and the BWSSB engineers to fix this nauseating problem without any delay.

Shop owners, frustrated after repeated complaints to apathetic authorities, have blamed BWSSB engineers for failing to act against those diverting sewage into the OFC chambers. They also criticised Bengaluru Smart City Limited engineers for not properly supervising the development work.

Demanding the authorities to ensure cleanliness on Brigade Road, Shafi Ullah, who owns a shop on Rest House Road, said the overflowing of sewage from an OFC chamber is not only nauseating but also ruins the image of Brigade Road. "Overflowing sewage onto Brigade Road is happening frequently. I want the authorities concerned to fix the problem on a permanent basis", he said.

Expressing concern over the sewage issue, Bramhananda Reddy, President of the Brigade Road Shops Owners' Association, said he has already complained to BWSSB engineers about sewage overflowing from one of the OFC chambers. "I raised the issue during a meeting convened by BBMP authorities. They assured me that the problem would be resolved in coordination with BWSSB. I urge the authorities to address the issue without delay—not just to spare pedestrians, motorists, and shop owners the inconvenience, but also to prevent it from turning into a serious health hazard," he said.

> **"Despite repeated complaints, no concrete action has been taken. It's frustrating to see such negligence on a prime commercial street**
>
> – Bramhananda Reddy, President, Brigade Road Shops Owners' Association

Meanwhile, BWSSB Assistant Engineer Rangaiah said that he has received a complaint about the overflowing sewage from an OFC chamber on Brigade Road. "I will visit the spot and issue notice to those responsible for letting sewage into the OFC chamber", the assistant engineer said.

# Namma metro adds sponsors to station names

## BMRCL rolls out naming rights across key metro lines, inviting corporate sponsorships to prefix brand names on select stations as revenue-generation strategy

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The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is expanding its semi-naming and co-branding rights, allowing more metro stations to feature corporate names alongside their official names. Sources indicate that naming rights have already been awarded to private companies for select stations on the Yellow Line (R V Road–Bommasandra) and Blue Line (Rashtriya Silk Board–International Airport). The corporation is now extending the scheme to additional stations on the Purple Line (Challaghatta–Whitefield), Green Line (Nagasandra–Silk Institute), and a few more on the Yellow Line, as part of its revenue-generation strategy.

A BMRCL official said, "The corporation has categorised metro stations into five grades—A, B, C, D, and E—for semi-naming rights. Companies seeking naming rights for 'A' grade stations must have an annual turnover of at least ₹12 crore or ₹30 crore over three years. For 'B' grade stations, the requirement is ₹10 crore annually or ₹30 crore over three years, while for 'C', 'D', and 'E' grade stations, the annual business turnover must be ₹8 crore, ₹7 crore, and ₹5 crore, respectively."

### Branding rights and station naming

Under this initiative, sponsors can prefix their company name to existing metro station names, in accordance with BMRCL's government-approved 'Naming Rights' policy. Any company willing to pay ₹65 crore can secure its name as a prefix to a metro station. For example, Infosys Foundation contributed ₹100 crore for the Konappana Agrahara metro station on the Yellow Line, allowing it to be renamed as 'Infosys Foundation - Konappana Agrahara Metro Station'. The station will cover an area of two lakh square feet, with 3,000 square feet allocated for Infosys Foundation. Similarly, Sampige Road metro station on the Green Line is already branded with the prefix 'Mantri Mall'. In 2020, Biocon Group signed an agreement with BMRCL to fund ₹65 crore for the construction of Hebbagodi metro station, leading to its renaming as 'Biocon Hebbagodi'. However, the renaming faced opposition from members of the Hebbagodi City Municipal Council.

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### Regulation lapse

**Ragi Gudda**

The newly constructed elevated access road near Ragi Gudda Metro Station lacks traffic signals, signage, and entry regulations, creating confusion and raising serious road safety concerns.

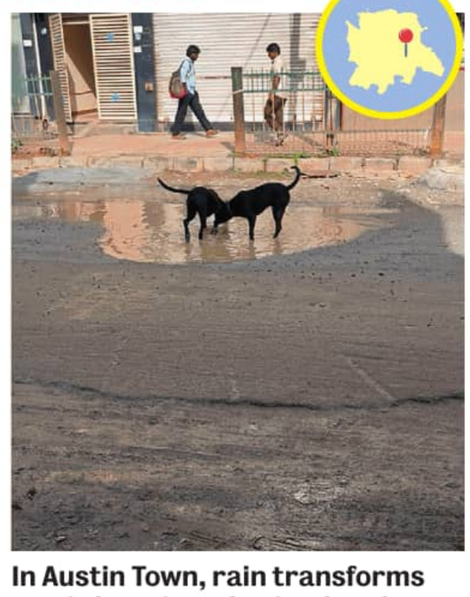
### Waste zone

**NRI Layout**

In NRI Layout Phase 2, infrequent door-to-door garbage collection—just once a week—is forcing residents to dump waste on vacant private plots.

### Flooded lanes

**Austin Town**



In Austin Town, rain transforms roads into dog-sized swimming pools, with residents enduring over six months of neglect despite repeated complaints about poor maintenance.

# HC issues notice on GBG Act

The Karnataka High Court has served notice to the State government and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) regarding a PIL contesting the validity of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024. The petition alleges that the legislation represents a direct attempt by the State to seize authority from local bodies like BBMP and redirect resources.

Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi, forming a division bench, issued the notice following a petition by T S Nagabharana and others. The respondents were given four weeks to submit their objections.

Senior Advocate MB Nargund, representing the petitioners, contended that the petition addresses violations of democratic principles of self-governance established in the Constitution of India through the 74th Amendment.

The petition highlights that since the 2015 Municipal Corporation elections in Bengaluru, no subsequent elections have occurred, citing various reasons. This has resulted in the city operating without an elected council, undermining the constitutional mandate of self-governance. The document notes that the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2024, effective from 15.05.2025, aims to establish core principles, institutions, and processes for urban governance in the Greater Bengaluru Area, superseding the existing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020. The petition argues that the GBG Act 2024 creates a Greater Bengaluru Authority and plans to restructure BBMP into seven new city corporations. According to Section 9, the GBA includes the Chief Minister as Ex-officio Chairman, various ministers as officials, and 18 government entities with voting powers equal to city corporation mayors. -BMB

IN COURT

# SC postpones hearing in Darshan case

**SC questions HC's rationale behind granting bail discretion**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday postponed the hearing on the Karnataka government's plea challenging the bail granted to Kannada actor Darshan in the fan murder case. The bench, comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, adjourned the matter to July 24 after Darshan's lawyer Siddharth Dave informed the court that senior counsel Kapil Sibal, who was to argue the case, was engaged elsewhere. Dave also mentioned he had just received the case file the previous night and sought time to prepare. The hearing has drawn attention after the apex court questioned the Karnataka High Court's rationale in granting bail, stating they were not convinced by the manner in which discretion was exercised.

Darshan, along with Pavithra and 15 others, was arrested on June 11 for the alleged abduction and murder of Renukaswamy, a fan who had reportedly sent abusive messages to Pavithra amid a public feud involving Darshan's wife, Vijayalakshmi. The incident sparked a social media storm, dividing the actor's fanbase. While Darshan was released on bail after spending 131 days in custody, the state government has moved the Supreme Court seeking cancellation of the relief. Since his release, Darshan has resumed film shoots and is currently in Thailand working on his upcoming film, Devil. —BMB

# Tailoring shop doubles as fake document racket hub

## Shop posing as front for identity fraud is busted, with mother-daughter duo booked for helping undocumented immigrants obtain fake Aadhaar and voter IDs

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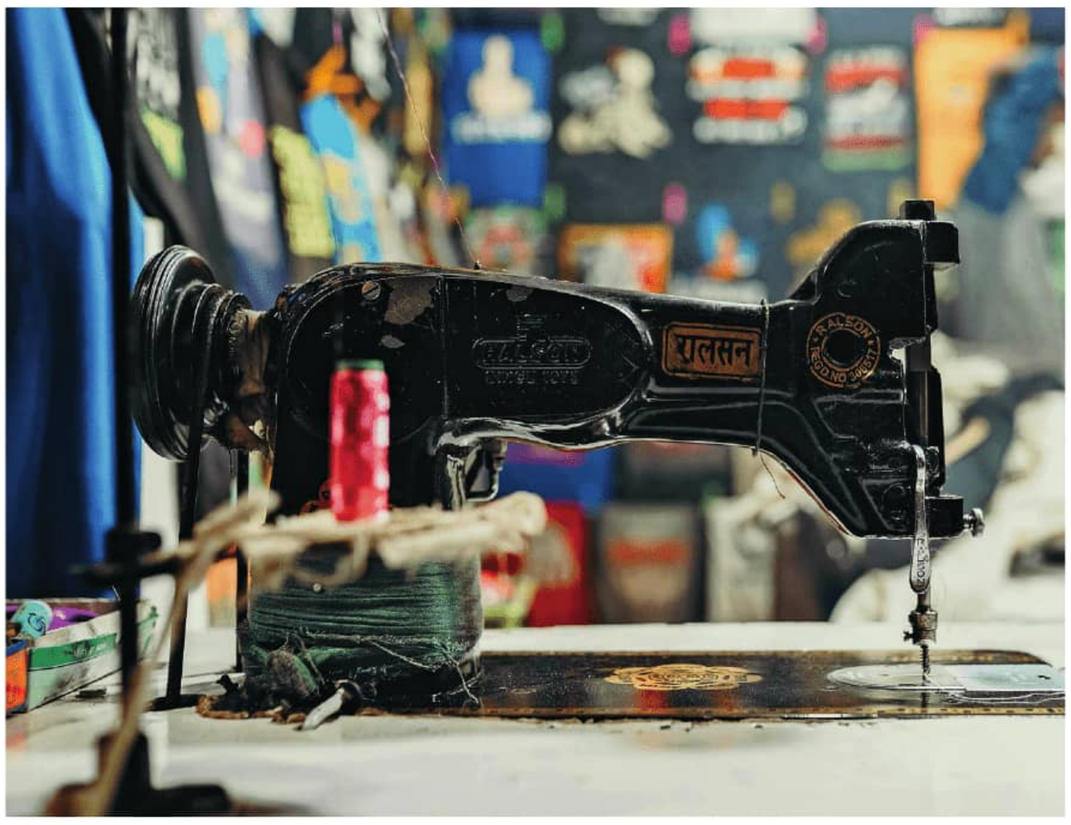

What appeared to be a modest tailoring shop in the Yelahanka suburban area was, in reality, a front for a scheme involving fake identity documentation and illegal immigration. In a case that sheds light on the growing threat of forged documentation networks in urban India, a mother-daughter duo has been booked for allegedly facilitating Bangladeshi immigrants in obtaining fraudulent Indian identity cards, including Aadhaar and voter IDs.

The case, registered at the Yelahanka New Town Police Station, was taken up on 15 July following the sanction of the 7th Judicial Magistrate Court (JCM). The accused Kavya (name changed), owner of a tailoring unit and her daughter Sneha (name changed) are under investigation for allegedly helping undocumented immigrants secure Indian citizenship credentials through fraudulent means.

According to the report filed by the Head Constable of the police station, the case came to light after he was directed by the Station House Officer (SHO) to conduct patrol duty and gather intelligence in the area on 14 July. During his rounds, an office order issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, North East Division, alerted authorities about illegal activities allegedly taking place within the premises of the tailoring unit.

Further investigation revealed that the tailoring shop was being used as a covert hub to generate and facilitate fake Indian documents for Bangladeshi nationals residing illegally in the city. Kavya and Sneha are accused of fabricating Aadhaar and voter ID cards, thereby enabling these individuals to claim legal identity status and access government services unlawfully.

> **Several occupants of the nearby houses have abruptly vacated. We're looking into whether they were beneficaries of forged documents** —Police

The tip-off regarding the racket originated from an email complaint submitted, which flagged the suspicious use of the premises under the guise of a tailoring business. The email to senior police officials prompted immediate scrutiny and action.

Authorities believe that such operations pose serious national security risks, as forged identity documents can be used for voting, acquiring SIM cards, opening bank accounts, and more. The misuse of Aadhaar and voter IDs not only threatens the integrity of citizenship records but also enables deep-rooted illegal migration networks to thrive undetected.

"We are actively investigating the case to establish the involvement of the accused," officials told BM. When asked how many individuals had received fake Indian documents through the racket, the police said, "Several occupants of the nearby houses have abruptly vacated and shifted elsewhere. We're currently looking into whether they were beneficiaries of the forged documents".

The accused have been booked under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for forgery, cheating, and criminal conspiracy, as well as relevant sections of the Foreigners Act and the Passport Act.

Investigations are ongoing to determine how many individuals may have benefitted from the forged documents and whether the duo is linked to a wider network. This case raises deeper concerns about how seemingly benign urban spaces, tailoring shops, shelters, or ashrams, are being misused to aid illegal immigration and identity fraud. As cities like Bengaluru grow rapidly, unchecked spaces in the urban sprawl are increasingly becoming fertile ground for such covert operations.

IN BRIEF

## Another school hit by bomb hoax

A private school in East Bengaluru received a bomb threat via email on Tuesday, triggering panic and a swift evacuation of students. The threat was sent to the administrative email of Chrysalis High, Varthur, claiming explosives had been planted on the premises.

Police and the anti-sabotage squad immediately rushed to the campus and conducted an extensive search. After over three hours of thorough scanning, no explosives were found, and officials confirmed that the threat was a hoax.

This comes just days after more than 40 schools across Bengaluru received similar bomb threat emails, all of which were later confirmed as hoaxes. Following Tuesday's scare, students were sent home as a precautionary measure. Police have launched an investigation to trace the origin of the email and identify those responsible for the repeated hoax threats. —BMB

## Ministers seeks ban on cattle grazing in forests

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has instructed the Additional Chief Secretary of the department and the Chief Conservator of Forests to take necessary legal action to prohibit and ban the grazing of domestic animals in Karnataka's forests.

He said that the entry of a large number of livestock in forest areas leads to the trampling of saplings, damaging them, and is thus detrimental to forest conservation. It also leads to a shortage of fodder for wildlife. Additionally, wildlife may be susceptible to infectious diseases from domesticated cattle and other animals.

Furthermore, after the Madras High Court ruled against grazing of domestic animals inside the forests of Tamil Nadu, cattle are being brought from neighbouring states to Karnataka's forests. —BMB

## Woman killed in BMTC bus-scooter collision

A 60-year-old woman died and her son-in-law was injured after their two-wheeler was hit by a BMTC bus near Silk Board around 9 am on Monday. The bus, operating between KR Market and Hanchipura Colony, collided with their vehicle under the Thalaghattapura Traffic Police limits. The accident comes just four days after a similar BMTC bus incident.

Police officials said the woman, identified as Olliyamma, a resident of Thathaguni in Kanakapura, who was riding pillion, was thrown off the bike due to the impact and sustained head injuries as the bus rear wheel ran over her, leading to her death. Her son-in-law Raja (36), who was riding the two-wheeler, suffered critical injuries and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Based on a complaint filed by Raja, authorities have registered a case and detained the bus driver. Police confirmed that an investigation into the accident is underway. —BMB

# From Karnataka to Kuala Lumpur: Global Recognition for State's Stalwarts

## Honored in Malaysia | Discussions on Investment Opportunities | Global Excellence Honor Bestowed on Unsung Heroes

Achievers being honored at the grand event in Kuala Lumpur. Seen here: Actor Daali Dhananjaya, Former Malaysian Minister Datuk D.R.S.K. Devamany, MAPS Group Founder Datuk M.A.P. Segarran, Pengiklanan Metro Channel MD Andy Sengiah, and others.

In a grand celebration of Karnataka's unsung heroes, Vijay Karnataka, known for recognising grassroots excellence, has now taken this tradition beyond borders. At a prestigious event held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, distinguished individuals excelling across various fields were conferred the prestigious 'Global Excellence & Honor Award', marking a new chapter in the paper's global outreach.

The high-profile event, hosted at a private hotel in the Malaysian capital, was graced by versatile multi-lingual actor 'Daali' Dhananjaya, former Malaysian Minister Datuk Seri S.K Devamany, MAPS Group founder Datuk M.A.P. Segarran, Metro Channel's Andy Sanghia, renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Vatsala Sivadas, and Deepak Saluja, CEO of Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, alongside Editor Sudarshan Channangihalli.

During the event, discussions were also held on the scope of "Investment and Business Opportunities in Malaysia." A total of 19 achievers were felicitated for their relentless service across fields such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and community development.

Speaking at the event, former Malaysian Minister Datuk Seri S.K Devamany said, "24% of Malaysia's population is of Chinese origin, yet Singapore is 3.5 times more expensive than Malaysia. Hence, investing here is far more beneficial. Indians who once came here as labourers are now entrepreneurs, running startups and businesses."

He further added, "We're leaders in the petroleum, cooking oil, and rubber sectors. Opportunities for industries are immense here. Malaysia's New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030)' aims at boosting GDP through foreign investment. The participation of Vijay Karnataka in this celebration adds great value. I hope these achievers go on to accomplish even more."

Datuk M.A.P. Segaran, founder of MAPS Group, highlighted, "Malaysia offers abundant opportunities in the FMCG segment. Indian rice and spices are in huge demand here. The trust we have in India's education system opens the door to academic ventures too. We offer political stability—making investor capital safe and secure."

### 'A Salute to the Achievers!'

"Recognising achievers is noble. But beyond success, we must help others grow. That's when success earns real value."
– Daali Dhananjaya, Actor

"VK prioritises truth and accuracy. Stories in Vijay Karnataka have often influenced government action, resolving public grievances. It's heartening to see achievers getting global recognition. May their contributions to society only grow."

– Deepak Saluja, CEO, Vijay Karnataka & Bangalore Mirror

"With lakhs of readers across Karnataka, Vijay Karnataka has grown through their trust. Our goal is to deliver quality news. May these awards inspire achievers to reach even greater heights."

– Sudarshan Channangihalli, Editor, Vijay Karnataka

RESEARCH PARTNER

Kiran Upadhyay leads a dialogue on investment opportunities in Malaysia. Several Malaysian entrepreneurs joined the session.

A colourful cultural presentation by Malaysian artists enthralled the guests.

### "What AWARDEES said

"To receive recognition for 35 years of work on a global platform is a proud moment. It's a celebration of our persistence and effort."
– Bhimashankar B. Patil, MD, M/S Sri Maha Ganesh Industries, Kalaburagi

"From a small village in Mandya to shaping Bengaluru's skyline — Vijay Karnataka believed in me from the early days. This global honor deepens my responsibility. Grateful and inspired.
– Chethan N. MD, Kamala Arcs

"Being recognised internationally for healthcare services is both joyous and motivating."
– Dr T. Gangadhar Gouda, Dean and Director, BMCRC, Ballari

"I began as a Physics lecturer, later became a principal, and now serve as a Chief Administrative Officer. This award reflects our institution's growing stature."
– M. Naveena, CAO & Principal, Mahila Samaja, District Guide Commissioner-Bharat Scouts & Guides, Kolar

"Receiving global recognition, not for politics but social service, is a humbling experience."
– Lakshmi Aruna Janardhana Reddy, President, Vishwabharati Kalanikethana, Sri Rukminamma Changareddy Memorial Old Age Home, Residential School for Specially Abled Children, Ballari

"Being awarded abroad adds meaning to our mission. It drives us to work harder."
– Shridevi Nayak, President, Bhagyalakshmi Bank

"To all the friends, family, and team behind our success—this award belongs to you."
– Praveen Gopal, Blossom Hospital

"It is a matter of great joy to receive recognition at the global level. As Dr. Niranjan Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SDM University, Dharwad, rightly said, our work has always been guided by the foresight of Dr. Veerendra Heggade. This honor is a true reward for his achievements and tireless efforts, and it inspires us to take confident steps forward."
– Saket Shetty, Dharwad

"Though the award bears my name, it's a tribute to our entire institution."
– Bhuvan Basavaraj Kaulagi, Director, Excellent Group of Institutions, Vijayapura & Secretary, Excellent Group of Institutions, Dharwad

"This recognition from a foreign land adds weight to our service. It inspires future work."
– M. Chandrashekar, Proprietor, Sri Bande Mahakali Flour Mill & Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Water Service Centre

"I dedicate this award to my family and well-wishers. Vijay Karnataka has inspired me to grow."
– Vishal Shanbhag, Founder & MD, Hans Naturals, Shanbhag Exim & Hans Aroma, Yellapur

"By honoring achievers from all districts globally, Vijay Karnataka is doing commendable work."
– P.H. Neeralakeri, High Court Advocate & Social Worker, Dharwad

"A decade of effort recognised internationally is deeply satisfying."
– Gajendra S.R., Managing Director-Sai Shishir Tours

"Vijay Karnataka has strengthened my responsibility by honoring me. May this noble initiative continue."
– Santosh Bhatt Guruji, Chief Priest, Malatesh Temple, Devaragudda, Haveri

"I dedicate this award to my parents and mentors. It's a reward for years of effort."
– Mahalingaiah Shastry S.N., Proprietor, SGS Tours & SGS Developers, Shivamogga

"Proud to receive the Global Excellence Award. Thank you for identifying hidden champions."
– Dr. Shivanand Nagappa Kolur, President-SHREE Association Vijayapura and Founder General Secretary, Excellent Group of Institutions, Vijayapura

"This recognition is the reward for 25 years of hard work. Thank you, Vijay Karnataka."
– Sandhyarani Patil, Co-founder & President, Jai Bhavani Education & Welfare Society, Bidar

"Though I'm from Hassan, I work in rural Vijayapura for education. This recognition motivates me to expand my services further."
– S. Sachidananda Kumar, Retired Executive Engineer, PWD & Founder, S. Kumar Vidhya Vardhak Samsthe

"This international award for our humble service is the greatest motivation."
– Vithal Subhash Sutrave, MD, Devanand Automobiles, Kalaburagi

# Over 902 kg ganja seized till July 15

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In every monthly meeting, each department must clearly state what they have done with full transparency. Whether it is an awareness program or a drug seizure, whatever has been done must be reported during the meeting. Everyone has their own responsibility; we don't need to stress anything about it, as it is a strict duty. We are also getting good results—just the other day, 4 kg of cocaine was seized at the airport. We keep receiving such information, which we will gather and continue to investigate further," Singh said.

A series of high-profile operations from March to June 2025 exposed the city's widening narcotics network. On June 28, two peddlers were arrested for supplying 'ganja gummies' to college students, with 1.44 kg of the cannabis-laced sweets worth ₹3 lakh seized. Just three days earlier, Hebbal Police intercepted another gang peddling the same gummies, recovering an identical haul. On June 17, a Central Crime Branch (CCB) raid on Parappana Agrahara prison officials had seized ganja, weapons, and cash were discovered inside, raising questions about internal security breaches.

Earlier in the month, , Sampigehalli Police arrested four individuals after uncovering 1.2 kg of ganja and 209 grams of hydroganja from a city apartment. On May 2, Kumaraswamy Layout Police seized 29 kg of ganja worth ₹7.5 lakh from three peddlers. March alone saw a spike in NDPS Act cases, with 40 cases registered in February resulting in 55 arrests and 130.8 kg of marijuana confiscated. Days later, on March 14, a separate operation brought down a ganja racket witwh three arrests and drugs worth ₹1.8 lakh seized.

In June the police conducted an awareness programme, and destroyed 394 kg of seized ganja to highlight the fight against narcotics. On the same occasion, Home Minister G Parameshwara stated that in the past year, authorities had seized 4,000 kg of ganja worth ₹45 crore. He emphasised that the government has declared a war on drugs, detecting and destroying contraband worth thousands of crores of rupees while intensifying efforts to track down illegal immigrants.

### Other than ganja

In the first six and a half months of this year, police have seized a total of 929.703 kg of narcotics. After ganja, MDMA ranks as the second most confiscated drug with 19.261 kg seized, followed by hashish oil, with 4.604 kg recovered.

### CCB Narcotics Control Unit seizes banned drugs

The Narcotics Control Bureau of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) seized banned narcotics worth ₹6 lakh that were being smuggled into the city through foreign postal services. Acting on specific intelligence, the police officials intercepted Indian Post parcels and recovered 10 grams of cocaine, 10 grams of MDMA crystals, 30 grams of XTC pills, and 70 grams of hydroponic ganja. A case has been registered at Kempegowda Nagar police station, and investigations are underway to trace those who booked the parcels.

In parallel, the CCB launched a targeted operation to curb illegal activities by foreign nationals overstaying in Bengaluru. Nine individuals, four Nigerians, two Ghanaians, one Sudanese, and one Congolese, were apprehended for violating visa conditions and involvement in drug-related activities. One Nigerian national has already been deported, while proceedings are ongoing to send the remaining eight back to their countries.

# Whatever floats our boat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

areas available to harvest solar energy. When numerous cheaper alternatives were available, lakes were not the first choice for solar panels. Lakes in an urban setting act as lung spaces and assist in maintaining the microclimate.

Instead of converting wetlands into solar energy farms, we must look at alternatives such as barren land and building rooftops, they said.

"While the proposal is welcomed, and it may not hurt aquatic life initially, the panels could lead to weed growth in the long run. The scaffoldings of panels might accumulate excess nutrients, resulting in weed proliferation, posing maintenance challenges. The government should consider alternatives such as rooftops and barren land for solar projects. FPVs also prove to be more expensive compared to land-mounted or building-mounted panels," said Dr Shivakumar Magada, professor of Aquatic Biology, College of Fisheries.

However, if it cannot be avoided, FPVs should be restricted to dead lakes—those that remained dry for most of the year due to altered catchment areas, say experts. It was not advised to use productive lakes for this purpose.

Apart from aquatic flora and fauna, lakes in Bengaluru and Karnataka are also home to many birds, apart from migratory birds that frequent these wetlands every year.

According to Dr S Subramanya, a city-based ornithologist, while the impact of FPVs on birds cannot be ascertained now, it is advisable to install the panels on a couple of lakes on an experimental basis, instead of going all out with 40 lakes at once.

"Lakes are biodiversity hotspots and support an amazing amount of bird diversity. They are century-old elements, which have already suffered a great deal due to the current model of lake development and rejuvenation, which are not biodiversity-friendly. Lake ecology has already been altered a lot. When we add solar panels to the existing scenario, it is hard to say if the panels will be beneficial or detrimental," said Dr Subramanya.

The existing scientific studies on Floating Photovoltaic deployment show that the overall impact on aquatic ecosystems is neither negative nor positive when 10% of the surface area is covered with FPV.

However, city-based lake activists are skeptical.

"Lakes serve as eco-sensitive zones in an urban setup, and the 10% rule might not hold in the case of our lakes. Many lakes in and around Bengaluru are filled with treated water, and the impact of FVPs on such lakes might be different. This project should be taken up only after consultation with and guidance from limnologists, ornithologists, and water quality experts," said V Ramprasad, founder, Friends of Lakes.

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**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I,MOHAMED** Sherif Dawood Sherif S/o Mohamed Sherif #4 R T Ngar Blr-32 have changed my name to Mohammed Sherif Dawood Sherif for all purposes.

I, SHAILENDRA CHAKRAVARTHY KONETI VENKATA NAGA alias K V N S CHAKRAVARTHY, S/o Koneti Sreenivasulu, R/o Flat No.101, Aikya Orchid, Rajbhavi Road, Varthur, Bengaluru – 560087, have changed my name as K V N S CHAKRAVARTHI, vide affidavit dated 21.07.2025, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, RAKHEE SUNILKUMAR, D/o Maliyil Damodaran Prasad, R/o Flat No.116, Sumadhura Sawan MTB, Hoodi Village, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru- 560048, have changed my name as RAKHEE PRASAD, vide affidavit dated 21.07.2025, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, NAGARATNA SHIVANAGOUDA PATIL, Residing at #202, I Block, Sumadhura Edengarden, 1st Main, Doddabanahalli, Bengaluru – 560067, have changed my name to PATIL NAGARATNA, vide affidavit dated 22/07/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore

I, AKBAR SHARIFF MOHMOOD SHARIFF, R/a#14, E No.3rd Street, Shivaji Rd Crs, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru 51. I, have Changed my name to AKBAR SHARIFF, Vide affidavit, dated 18/07/2025 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hussain. Bangalore

I, JERINO K son of Keivin Fernando born on 15-07-1985, residing at: 125/1, 2d Main, 5th Cross, Udayanagar, KR Puram, Doorvaninagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka- 560016, (Native District: Thoothukudi) shall henceforth be known as JERINO FERNANDO

I, Suma S Medavi resident of 302, Daivik Prasad Apartment, Mookambika Nagar, Off Mysore Road, Mylasandra, Bengaluru-560059, have changed my name to Suma Medavi

I, SADAPALLE BI BI AMMAJAN, R/a#3838, C Rahim Nagar Bangarpet 563114 I, have Changed my name to SADDAPALLI BIBI AMMAJAN, Vide affidavit, dated 19/07/2025 Sworn before Notary V B Prasad Bangarpet

I, Lawrence S/o Lazar M R/o 109,2nd Floor, Tanmay Residence Daddys Roost , Electronic City B'lore-560100 have changed my name to L Lawrence.

I, Sarika W/o Pavan Kumar Vadlamani R/o #3048, Prestige Park Square, Tower-3, Basava - napura village, Gottigere B'lore-560083 have changed my name to Sarika Nishad

I Avishai Caden S/O Rajiv Asirvadam Bandrapalli R/o #203 North East Elite Apts, Anjanappa Layout Horamavu Road B'luru 560043 have changed my name to Avishai Caden Rajiv for all purposes.

I, Lakshmaiah Reddy, R/o No 32 Sarjapur Road Bangalore 560035 Have Changed My name from Lakshmaiah to Lakshmaiah Reddy for All Purposes

I, Sanjana, D/o Umesh Sheena Shetty R/o #20. 1st A main Road, Nr New Shoba Stores Lingarajapuram, Bangalore - 560084 changed my name to Sanjana Shetty for all purposes

I, Saraswathy P W/o Naraginti Gopinatha Reddy R/o No 61 Meenakshi Layout Kamma - sandra Bengaluru Rural 560100 have changed my name to Saraswathi P for all purposes

I, GAJANAN PURANDAR BHAT R/o A-203, Vasundhara Kritika, Outer Ring Road, Opp PES University, Hosakerehalli, BSK-3, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name as GAJANAN BHAT for all purposes.

I, Rathna Range Gowda R/o No.250, Vidyuth Nagar, Salagame road, Hassan 573201 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Rathnamma Range Gowda Affidavit Dt.22/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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# Facial recognition system blow to social welfare schemes

Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Union and Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) jointly organised a public consultation meeting on Tuesday at Gandhi Bhavan on the issue of implementations of Facial Recognition System (FRS) and its impact on Right to Food and Right To Education. The meeting was addressed by anganwadi workers, academics, science movement activists, lawyers, free software movement activists and sections of civil society.

Economist and Right to Food activist Dr Dipa Sinha explained how the introduction of FRS in ICDS must be seen as a major step in the series of attacks launched at social welfare schemes. She pointed out that instead of addressing the issues of falling standards of Take Home Rations and supplementary nutrition by increasing budgetary allocations, the government is finding ways to exclude beneficiaries through FRS.

Dr Rajendran Narayanan, a professor at Azim Premji University pointed to the surveillance nature of FRS. He questioned that while a state like San Francisco, where Silicon valley is located and where technologies like FRS was conceptualised and one of the first places to unveil, banned FRS, why we are implementing this in our villages and towns. He also explained how the FRS scheme is an attack on the constitutional values of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Dignity.

The introduction of FRS is tremendously burdening anganwadi workers, said S Varalaxmi, the President of Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers' Union. In addition to the regular technical glitches anaganwadi workers are facing for poor quality of mobile handsets provided through POSHAN scheme, FRS is turning out to be an added burden as it is on top of the existing paperworks that they have to do. But, most importantly FRS is altering ICDS fundamentally from its universal framework to a limited targeted one. **BMB**

# PUMPED UP WITH POISON

## New research shows many anabolic steroids contain toxic metals

Eighteen-year-old Mark scrolls Instagram late at night, watching videos of fitness influencers showing off muscle gains and lifting the equivalent of a baby elephant off the gym floor.

Spurred on by hashtags and usernames indicating these feats involve steroids, soon Mark is online, ordering his first "steroid cycle". No script, no warnings, just vials in the mail and the promise of "gains".

A few weeks later, he's posting progress shots and getting tagged as #MegaMark. He's pleased. But what if I told you Mark was unknowingly injecting toxic chemicals?

In our new research we tested products sold in Australia's underground steroid market and found many were mislabelled or missing the expected steroid entirely.

Even more concerning, several contained heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and cadmium. These substances are known to cause cancer, heart disease and organ failure.

### What are anabolic steroids, and who is using them?

Anabolic steroids are synthetic drugs designed to mimic the effects of testosterone. Medical professionals sometimes prescribe them for specific health conditions (for example, hypogonadism, where the body isn't making enough sex hormones). But they are more commonly taken by people looking to increase muscle size, improve athletic performance, or elevate feelings of wellbeing.

People usually take steroids as pills and capsules or injectable oil- or water-based products. But while many people assume these products are safe if used correctly, they're made outside regulated settings, with no official quality checks.

### Our research

For this new study, we analysed 28 steroid products acquired from people all over Australia which they'd purchased either online or from peers in the gym. These included 16 injectable oils, ten varieties of oral tablets, and two "raw" powders.

An independent forensic lab tested the samples for active ingredients, contaminants and heavy metals. We then compared the results against what people thought they were taking.

More than half of the samples were mislabelled or contained the wrong drug. For example, one product labelled as testosterone enanthate (200mg/mL) contained 159mg/mL of trenbolone (a potent type of steroid) and no detectable testosterone. Oxandrolone (also known as "Anavar", another type of steroid) tablets were sold claiming a strength of 10mg but actually contained 6.8mg, showing a disparity in purity.

Just four products matched their expected compound and purity within a 5% margin.

But the biggest concern was that all steroids we analysed were contaminated with some level of heavy metals, including lead, arsenic and cadmium.

While all of the concentrations we detected were within daily exposure limits regarded as safe by health authorities, more frequent and heavier use of these drugs would quickly see people who use steroids exceed safe thresholds. And we know this happens.

If consumed above safe limits, research suggests lead can damage the brain and heart. Arsenic is a proven carcinogen, having been linked to the development of skin, liver and lung cancers.

People who use steroids often dose for weeks or months, and sometimes stack multiple drugs, so these metals would build up. This means long-term steroid use could be quietly fuelling cognitive decline, organ failure, and even cancer.

### What needs to happen next?

Heavy metals such as lead, arsenic and cadmium often contaminate anabolic steroid products because raw powders sourced from some manufacturers, particularly those in China, may be produced with poor quality control and impure starting materials. These metals can enter the supply chain during synthesis, handling, or from contaminated equipment and solvents, leading to their presence in the final products.

Steroid use isn't going away, so we need to address the potential health harms from these contaminants.

While pill testing is now common at festivals for drugs such as ecstasy, testing anabolic steroids requires more complex chemical analysis that cannot be conducted on-site. Current steroid testing relies on advanced laboratory techniques, which limits availability mostly to specialised research programs such as those in Australia and Switzerland.

We need to invest properly in a national steroid surveillance and testing network, which will give us data-driven insights to inform targeted interventions.

*By Timothy Piatkowski, Griffith University, The Conversation*

## MIRRORLIGHTS

### Compulsive nature may be why one indulges in self-destructive acts: Study

A person's compulsive nature could be the reason why such individuals indulge in self-destructive behaviour, making harmful choices despite knowing the obvious negative outcomes, according to a new study.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications Psychology, also found that making compulsive decisions did not appear to be random mistakes or people having "bad days".

"They're stable traits -- almost like personality types. This is not to say they're fixed, just that they may require (an) intervention to break," said lead researcher Philip Jean-Richard Dit Bressel, a behavioural neuroscientist and experimental psychologist at The University of New South Wales.

Researchers said self-sabotaging choices do not arise out of a lack of motivation or capacity -- rather from a subtle, yet persistent failure to connect their actions with consequences.

The team observed three distinct behaviours among Australian participants whose choices in an online game resulted in either a reward or punishment -- 'Sensitives', 'Unawares' and 'Compulsives'. The 'Sensitives' were those who worked out which choices led to unfavourable outcomes and adapted their behaviour. The 'Unawares' were those who did not work out, yet were able to modify their strategies once their errors were brought to their attention.

The third group -- 'Compulsives' -- "persisted in harmful decisions despite both punishment and informational intervention", the authors explained in the study.

"We basically told them, 'this action leads to that negative consequence, and this other one is safe'. Most people who had been making poor choices changed their behaviour immediately. But some didn't," said Jean-Richard Dit Bressel.

Playing the online game required the participants to click on either of two planets -- one would lead to a spaceship that delivered points (reward), while the other to a spaceship that stole from the points accrued thus far (punishment).

After a few rounds of trial and error, the researchers found that the sensitive participants were able to work out which planet led to punishment, but the 'Unawares' and 'Compulsives' failed to make the connection and therefore, were "punished intermittently".

The team also said the research has important implications for public health messaging, as campaigns largely rely on providing information -- about smoking, drinking, diet, or financial risks -- assuming that people will act on it. —PTI

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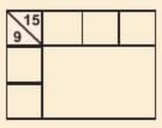
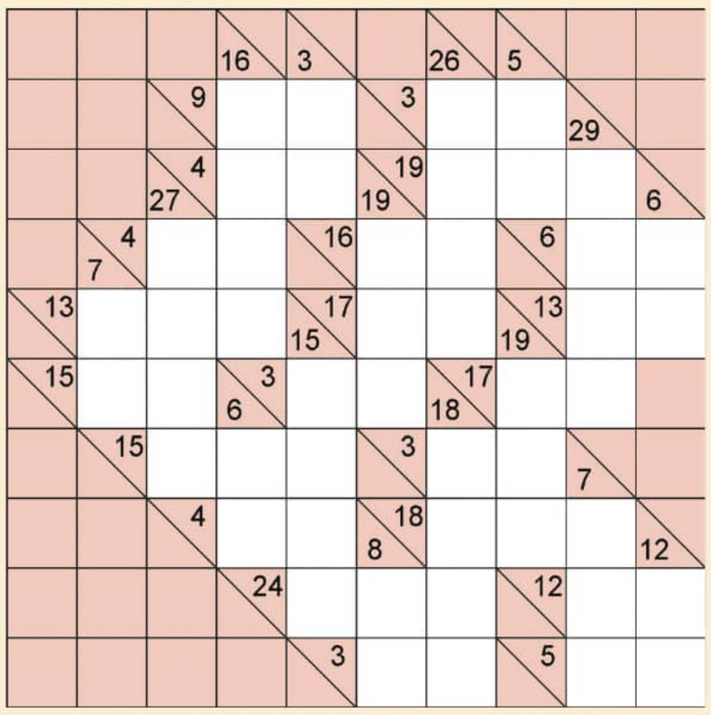
## Kakuro

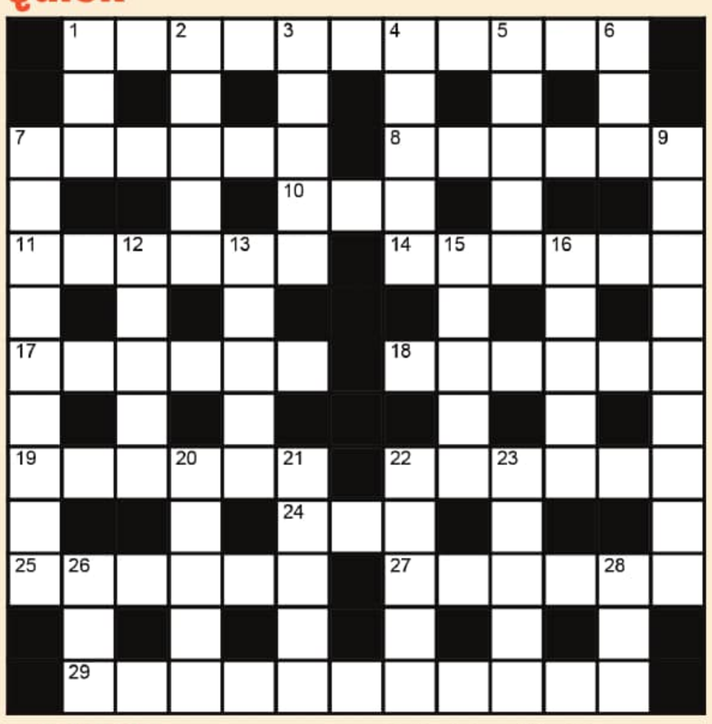
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Lie or quibble (11)
7 Circumvent (6)
8 Egyptian Christian church (6)
10 Period of history (3)
11 Reveal or make known (3,3)
14 A large game fish (6)
17 Truthful (6)
18 Trouble; nuisance (6)
19 Calls on? (6)
22 Protective covering as of engine (6)
24 First sale of a stock (3)
25 Stinging-plant (6)
27 In disagreement or at variance? (2,4)
29 Prizes or esteems; values (11)

**DOWN**

1 __ for : be punished for? (3)
2 Muse of poetry (5)
3 Useful quality (5)
4 Natives of Peru in the ancient times (5)
5 Shock greatly (5)
6 Prefix for "dermis" or "center" (3)
7 Amusement park and recreation centre in Cubbon Park (3,6)
9 Comes to a focal point (9)
12 Melodies or songs (5)
13 Distressed (5)
15 Ethiopian capital Addis ___ (5)
16 Inter Miami and Argentina striker (5)
20 __ ___ form: in good nick (2,3)
21 Colander (5)
22 Raccoon relative (5)
23 Brusque or curt (5)
26 Spanish queen (3)
28 Parties (3)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: R EQUALS S**

KYS FMDCDKU KI HIZX-
SJK DGSFR KI KYDZLR DR KYS
RSHJSK IO IBKNFJG RBHHSRR.

### Linemaro

So what directory should I look into for your heart's number?

### Mindchow

When men come to like a sea life, they are not fit to live on land

### Joke of the day

Are you ever walking down the street and you see some guy you kind of know, and you don't want to say hi, but you sort of have to because he's your dad?

## Loop

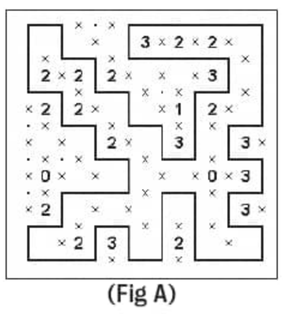
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

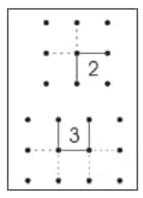
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

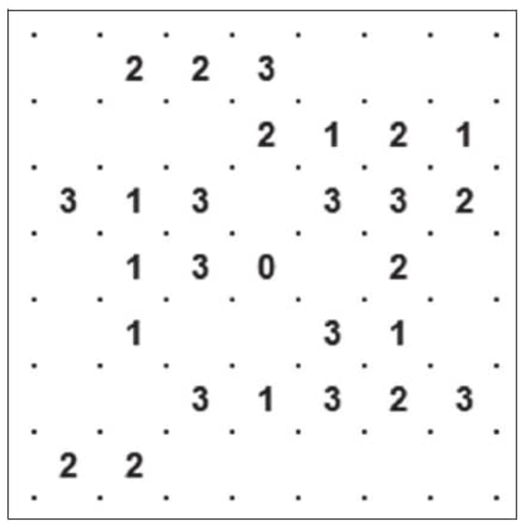
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



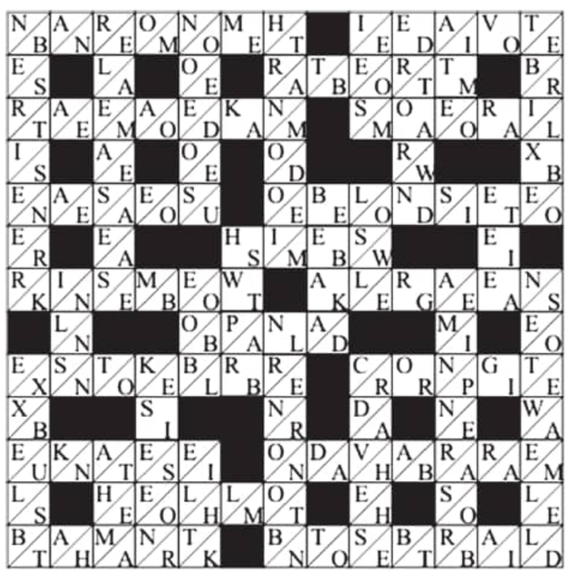
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



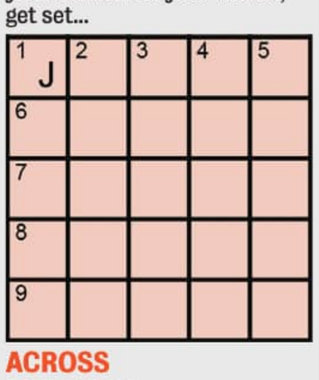
## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



**ACROSS**

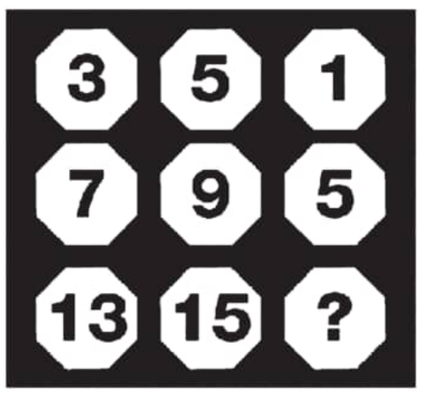
1 AJ pal; 6 I a mum;
7 Bella; 8 In Zee (1-4);
9 Spate

**DOWN**

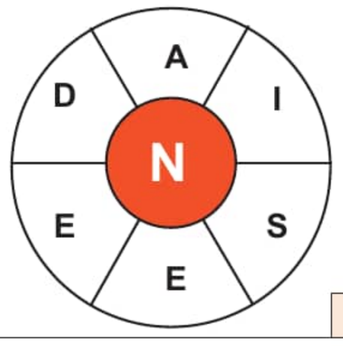
1 J Pule; 2 Ma Zea;
3 Abila; 4 Meant;
5 Spiel

## Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last octogan?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**10** Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | | 1 | | 5 | | 3 | 4 |
| | | 9 | | 8 | | 2 | | |
| | 9 | | 3 | | 8 | | 5 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 1 | | 5 | | 2 | | 8 | |
| | | 4 | | 5 | | 9 | | |
| 9 | 8 | | 6 | | 1 | | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | | | | | | | | 1 |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

**Easy** = 27

4 7 7 9

**Medium** = 16

3 4 7 8

**Hard** = 8

2 3 5 5

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

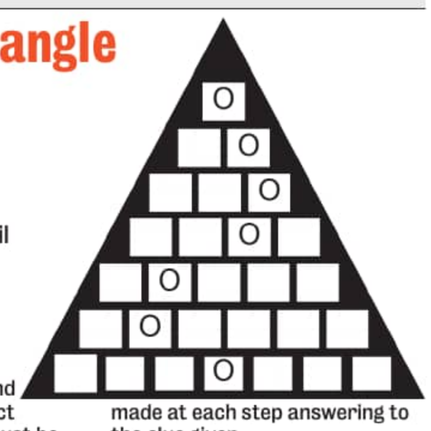
**Differences: 1.** Bag of chips is moved. **2.** Handle is higher. **3.** Chair is larger. **4.** Thumb is moved. **5.** Shirt collar is different. **6.** Flap is added to top of box.

## Riddler

Following are groups of three words. Can you figure out the common link within each group?
1. Barber, Rooster, Beehive 2. Bowling Alley, Tailor, Wrestling Match 3. Telephone, Deck of Cards, Car Trunk 4. Fishing Rod, Actor, Checkout Counter 5. Watermelon, Tennis Tournament, Idea

## Alpha triangle

1 Circular letter
2 'Certainly not!'
3 '_, dos, tres', ...
4 Atop or over
5 Hammer
6 Decorated (4,2)
7 Set forth in detail

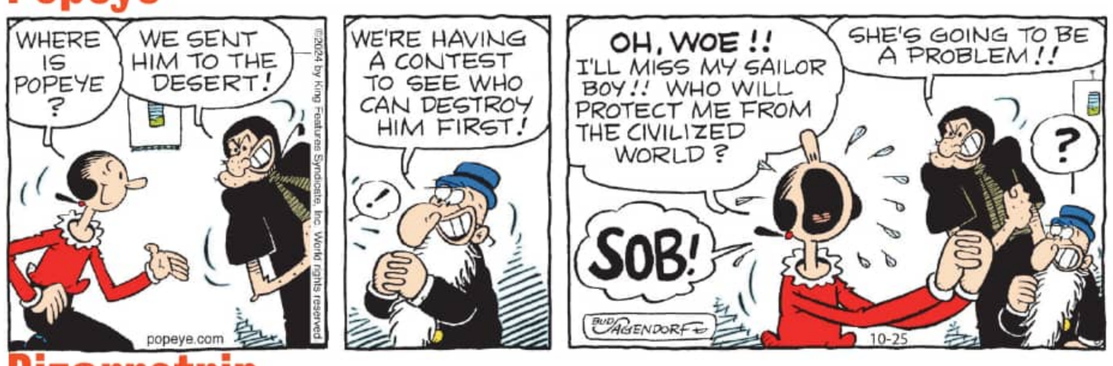


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

# COMICS

## Popeye


WHERE IS POPEYE ?
WE SENT HIM TO THE DESERT!
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popeye.com
WE'RE HAVING A CONTEST TO SEE WHO CAN DESTROY HIM FIRST!
OH, WOE !! I'LL MISS MY SAILOR BOY!! WHO WILL PROTECT ME FROM THE CIVILIZED WORLD ?
SHE'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM!!
SOB!
?
BUD SAGENDORF
10-25

## Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 4·16·25
Our patterns include tomato sauce, grease & oil, and mixed berries.
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## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

OVARY OFFICE
DID YOU HEAR THAT THE NEW PUBERTY MANDATE INCLUDES BRINGING IN MORE DIRECTORS?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
BUT WE JUST GOT THE DIRECTOR OF ESTROGEN! SHE'S ALREADY INVITED THE PERIOD TEAM TO JOIN US.
BURN IT ALL!!
WE'RE IN CHARGE NOW!
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
OVARY OFFICE
THANK GOODNESS THEY'LL BE GONE IN A WEEK.

## Crankshaft

THESE DAYS I KEEP THINKING OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO SEE... AND THEN WONDER IF I'LL BE AROUND TO SEE THEM.
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
TIME IS THE THIEF OF HOPE.
4-16
THAT'S PRETTY PROFOUND, ED.
I READ IT ON A PIECE OF PAPER IN A FORTUNE COOKIE.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and unable to handle responsibilities efficiently. Financial losses from investments are possible, so review documents carefully before signing anything. Concerns about an elder's health could trouble you. If considering home renovations, it's advisable to postpone them for now.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
You'll stay busy at work today, with your network expanding. Business prospects are strong, and a significant order may come your way through your contacts. Innovation within partnerships looks promising. New investments may boost your business in the near future. Emotional bonding with your spouse will strengthen.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Family time will bring happiness today. You may discover new income opportunities, improving your financial position. Spending will be under control, and worthwhile purchases could elevate your social standing.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
With elders' blessings, your patience and focus will improve. Your renewed concentration will help you achieve personal and professional goals. Balance between expenses and savings will strengthen your financial position.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Feelings of dissatisfaction or laziness may slow your progress today. Project delays are possible. Lovebirds should avoid making major relationship decisions. Job seekers might face setbacks during interviews.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Inner strength will bring happiness today. You may receive short-term gains from investments and build stronger relations with your superiors, possibly leading to promotions. Your social reputation could improve, and work-related travel may be on the horizon.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Blessed by the Moon, you're likely to achieve a higher position through hard work. Job performance will improve, and guidance from an influential person may offer valuable direction in life. Domestic issues will be resolved smoothly, enhancing household harmony.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Happiness returns today as situations improve. A visit to a religious place could bring inner peace and strength. You may choose to donate to charity. Overseas travel related to work or education could be planned. Couples and singles may find suitable partners.

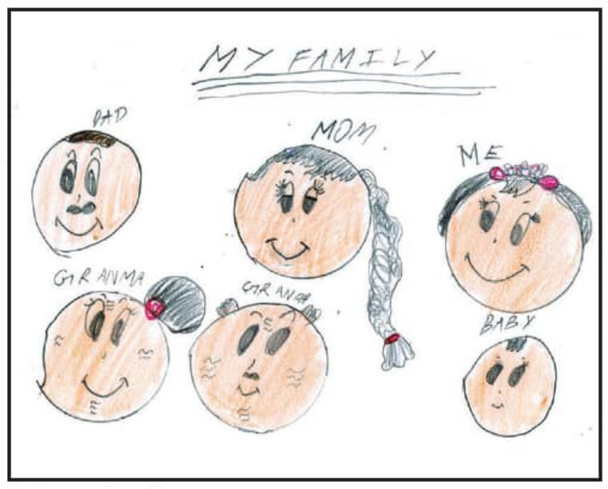
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Unhappiness and fatigue might affect your productivity today. Project delays could impact your professional reputation. Avoid risky adventures or rash driving. Love relationships may face strain, and job seekers could encounter disappointments.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Positive energies surround you today. Plans for a new partnership business could develop. Long-distance travel may also be in the works. Trust with your spouse will deepen, creating greater domestic harmony.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
You'll excel at work today, strengthening bonds with superiors. New responsibilities and possible promotions may come your way. Chronic health issues may improve. Incentives or financial rewards for your efforts are possible. Disputes with siblings may resolve, and job seekers could find suitable opportunities.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Children's education may demand attention, and you may begin planning for their higher studies. Couples could receive good news regarding children. You may consider enhancing your own qualifications for career advancement. Singles are likely to meet a potential partner. Those in education, consulting, or banking will do well.

## KIDZONE




Sanjanna, Bengaluru

Tharun, Bengaluru

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# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
[4³÷ 4^(3/2)]/4
4^(3-3/2-1)
4^(1/2)
2

**BULL'S EYE**
anise, ANISEED, dean, dense, dine, need, sand, sane, sedan, seen, send, sine, snide

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| J | A | L | A | P |
| U | M | A | M | I |
| L | A | B | E | L |
| E | Z | I | N | E |
| P | E | A | T | S |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
The ability to convert ideas to things is the secret of outward success.

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | A | R | O | N | E | T | | I | D | I | O | T | | |
| E | | A | | O | | A | B | O | R | T | | R | | |
| R | A | M | A | D | A | N | | M | A | O | R | I | | |
| S | | E | | E | | D | | | W | | | B | | |
| E | A | S | E | S | | E | B | O | N | I | T | E | | |
| | | R | | E | | S | M | E | W | | E | | | |
| K | I | S | M | E | T | | A | E | G | E | A | N | | |
| | N | | | B | A | L | D | | | M | | O | | |
| E | N | T | E | B | B | E | | C | O | P | I | T | | |
| X | | S | | N | | A | | E | | R | | W | | |
| U | K | A | S | E | | N | A | V | A | R | R | E | | |
| L | | H | E | L | L | O | | E | | O | | L | | |
| T | H | A | N | K | | N | O | S | T | R | I | L | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | P | P | R | E | C | I | A | T | E | S | | | | |
| N | | O | | V | | T | | R | | O | | | | |
| N | E | T | T | L | E | | A | T | O | D | D | S | | |
| A | | N | | I | P | O | | H | | | | E | | |
| V | I | S | I | T | S | | C | A | S | I | N | G | | |
| A | | E | | E | | | | B | | S | | R | | |
| H | O | N | E | S | T | | H | A | S | S | L | E | | |
| B | | U | | P | | | | B | | E | | V | | |
| L | E | T | O | U | T | | S | A | L | M | O | N | | |
| A | | T | | E | R | A | | A | | | | O | | |
| B | Y | P | A | S | S | | C | O | P | T | I | C | | |
| A | | R | | S | | N | | P | | P | | | | |
| A | P | P | R | E | C | I | A | T | E | S | | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
11. Working through the diagram in columns, add 4 to the top number to give the middle one, and add 6 to this number to give the lowest one.

**RIDDLER**
1. Combs, 2. Pins, 3. Jacks, 4. Lines, 5. Seeds

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
0, No, Uno, Upon, Pound, Done up, Expound.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
4 + 7 + 9 + 7 = 27
Medium
4 + 8 – 3 + 7 = 16
Hard
5 x 3 – 2 – 5 = 8

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

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**Asian Filmmaker of the Year —** Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi has been tapped for the Asian Filmmaker of the Year award at the 30th Busan International Film Festival, according to Variety

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

# POWER PLAYERS OF B-TOWN

## Celebs running their own production houses

### Deepika Padukone

Deepika made her production debut with Chhapaak, based on the real-life story of acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal. KA Productions focuses on socially relevant, women-centric cinema.

### Ajay Devgn

Ajay's production house has been behind films like Shivaay, Tanhaji, and Runway 34. He actively stars in and directs several of his productions, often combining commercial appeal with strong narratives.

### Alia Bhatt

Alia recently launched her own production house and debuted as a producer with Darlings on Netflix, co-starring Shefali Shah. The film received critical acclaim, and she plans to back more female-led stories.

### Akshay Kumar

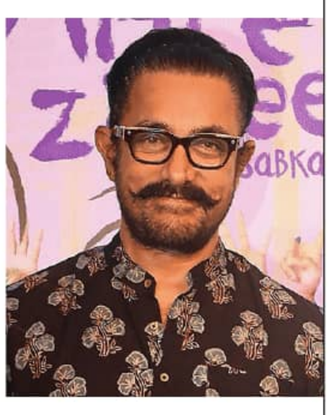
This banner has been associated with hits like Baby, Toilet: Ek Prem Katha, and Mission Mangal. Akshay uses it to push meaningful, often patriotic content that resonates with a wide audience.

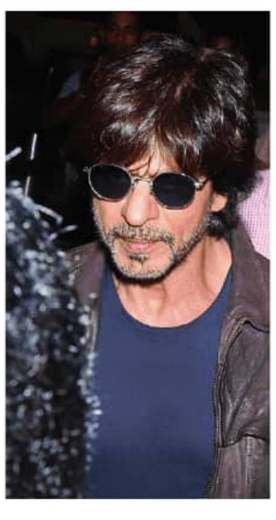
### Anushka Sharma

Co-founded with her brother Karnesh Sharma (before she exited in 2022), Anushka's banner produced critically acclaimed content like NH10, Pari, Paatal Lok, and Bulbbul. It was praised for supporting edgy, offbeat stories and first-time filmmakers.

### Aamir Khan

Known for backing content-driven cinema, Aamir's production house has delivered gems like Lagaan (which earned an Oscar nomination), Taare Zameen Par, Dangal, and Peepli Live. He's known for quality over quantity.





### Shah Rukh Khan

SRK's Red Chillies is one of the most successful production houses in India. From blockbusters like Chennai Express and Om Shanti Om to Netflix originals like Betaal, the company also manages VFX, distribution, and sports (co-owns Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL).

—ETimes

### Priyanka Chopra Jonas

PeeCee's production house focuses on regional cinema and content that breaks barriers. Her Marathi production Ventilator was a massive hit and won a National Award. She also aims to promote Indian storytelling on global platforms.

# Ekka's success at box office applauded

Ekka, which was released at more than 300 screens across Karnataka and over 50 screens in major cities of other states on July 18, has proved itself as an entertainer for all audiences. The movie is bankrolled by three major movie production houses – PRK Productions, KRG Studios, and Jayanna Films.

"I am very happy with the success of Ekka at the box office. The box-office collections are improving day by day. The movie has collected more money on Saturday than Friday. It successfully registered over 70 percent occupancy on Monday. It is a good sign. We are safe because box-office collections on Monday are critical for a movie to sustain. We will increase the number of screens next week if it is required," said Yogi G Raj of KRG Studios.

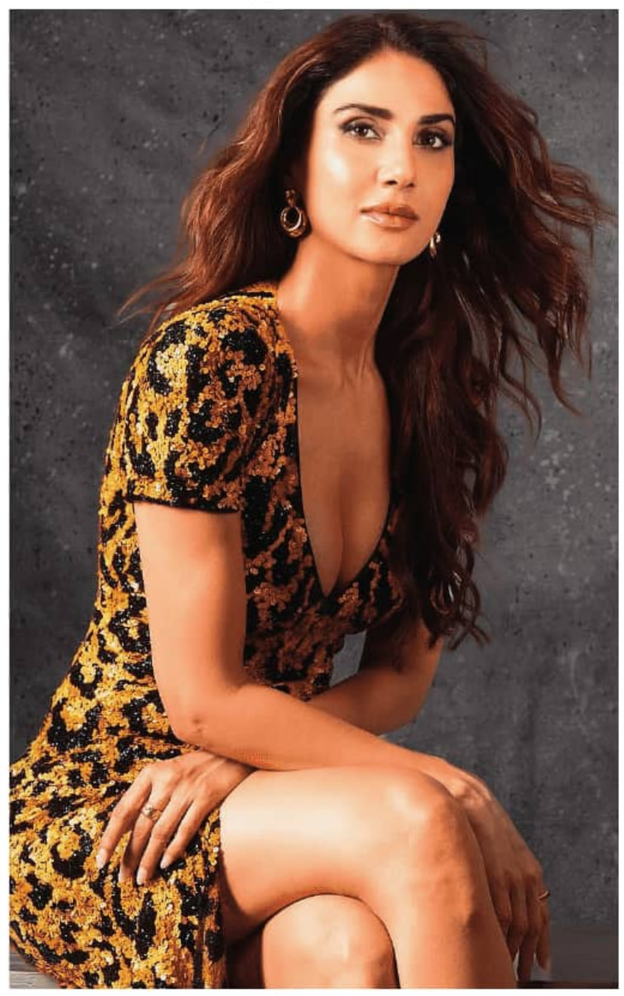
The producers of the movie are: Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar of PRK Productions, Jayanna of Jayanna Films, and Karthik Gowda and Yogi G Raj of KRG Studios.

Feeling good about Ekka's success, Jayanna of Jayanna Films, said that no Kannada movie had tasted success at the box office since December 2024. "Now, Ekka has created a record at the box office by registering 80 to 90 percent occupancy at theaters across the state. No theatre put up a Houseful board for more than six months. Now, Ekka has been drawing big crowds to movie theaters," said Jayanna.

Appreciating the cast and crew of the movie for their hard work and dedication, Jayanna said that the movie's shooting and post-production works were completed in six months. "The shooting of the movie began in January and it was released in July," Jayanna said.

The movie features Yuva Rajkumar, Sanjana Anand, Sampada, Atul Kulkarni, Aditya, Sadhu Kokila, Rahul Dev Shetty, Shruthi, and Poornachandra Mysore.

# Ugly face of beauty standards



Coming from New Delhi to Mumbai, actor Vaani Kapoor dreamt of making it big in films. But instead of being judged purely for her talent, she found herself judged for her looks.

In a chat with News18 Showsha, Vaani shared a shocking memory from her early career. A director decided not to cast her, just because of her skin tone. "I haven't been told directly, but information reaches me via other people. A filmmaker had once said that I wasn't fair enough to land a role. He said that I wasn't 'milky white,'" she said.

Vaani didn't let it break her spirit. Instead, she stood her ground and made her priorities clear: "I told myself that it is what it is. If that's a requirement, I don't want to be a part of his projects. The feelings are completely mutual there. He can find his milky white beauty or his fair and lovely woman. I know that I can find a better filmmaker for myself," she added.

Even now, when Vaani is a known name in the industry, the comments haven't stopped. But this time, they come in a different form: body-shaming. "What I hear a lot sometimes is that I'm too skinny and that I should put on some weight because people like women with fuller bodies. But I like me! I don't want to change anything about myself," she said..

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